

THERE IS NOTHING HID FROM GOD

Text: Ezekiel 8:1-18

What we just read was Ezekiel's vision of him being visited by the glory of God and then being transported through visions from where he was in captivity, to the temple in Jerusalem. The northern kingdom of Israel had already been taken into captivity 100 years earlier because of their idolatry. This was to serve as a warning to the southern kingdom of Judah, but they heeded it not. They went right on in their abominations and idolatrous practices and were self-deceived in believing that God didn't see it not did He care.

The throne of God came out of the heavens and was seen by Ezekiel. Its description is beyond imagination and the awesomeness of beholding God upon His throne, caused Ezekiel to fall lifeless. He described four cherubim that were guardians of the throne that had four faces (man, lion, ox, and eagle) and four wings, human hands and legs with feet like a calf. These creatures moved with "wheels within wheels" filled with eyes, symbolizing their omnipresence and swift execution of divine will. God's throne was a sapphire like stone above an expanse, and upon the throne sat a figure resembling a man. The figure was surrounded by a glowing radiant fire and a rainbow-like light, which represented the glorious appearance of the Lord.

Ezekiel had multiple encounters with the glory of the Lord. This one involves God picking Ezekiel up and carrying him many miles away to Jerusalem to show him the things that were going on in and around the temple. God told him to look to the northern gate of the temple, and he saw an idol set up in the entry way of God's house that provoked the Lord to jealousy. He showed Ezekiel a hole in the wall and told him to dig into it. When he did, he found a door and when he went inside, he was looking at inner chamber rooms that had pictures of abominable things and idols on the wall where the ancients of Israel came in and offered incense to those images and worshiped them. The Lord said they "do this in the dark" for they say "the LORD seeth us not; the LORD hath forsaken the earth". He showed him women weeping for Tammuz at the door of the gate. Tammuz was a Mesopotamian god associated with agriculture and fertility. He was believed to descend to the underworld annually when the vegetation began to die, leading to ritual lamentations by his followers. When he was brought to the inner court, God showed him twenty-five men that had their backs to the temple, facing the east and worshiping the sun. These egregious atrocities committed by the Israelites caused God's glory to depart from the temple and brought the judgment of God upon the people and the temple.

The most amazing thing of all that was going on was that they were totally convinced that the LORD didn't see them and that they could go on like that indefinitely without consequence. The Bible records that sin is deceptive and self-deception is the worst kind. The Bible is also clear that there is nothing hid from God - **Proverbs 15:3** The eyes of the LORD *are* in every place, beholding the evil and the good. **Hebrews 4:13** Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things *are* naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do. **Luke 12:2** For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known.

Listen to Psalm 139 describe the way that God sees - **Psalm 139:11-12** If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light *are* both alike to thee.

Examples of people trying to hide their sin:

- **Achan** – The spoils of the city of Jericho were set apart for the Lord because it was the first victory in Canaan. God specifically said don't touch or take anything because it was set for destruction except the silver and gold which went into the treasury of God. Achan took a Babylonish garment, a wedge of gold and two hundred pieces of silver and hid it in the ground under his tent. The Lord saw it, and it cost men their lives when they went out to the next battle. God revealed to Joshua that there was sin in the camp that needed to be dealt with. Achan was pointed out and had to confess what he did. They stoned him and his family and burned them with fire.
- **David** – At a time when David should have been at war, he was on the roof of his house at night and saw Bathsheeba taking a bath. His lust burned for her, and he sent for her and committed sin with her. She was found with child and David did everything in his power to cover up that sin, even to the point of having her husband murdered. After Uriah was killed in battle, David sent for Bathsheeba and she became his wife thinking he had gotten away with it. The Lord sent Nathan the prophet to his house to reveal that the Lord had seen it all and judgment came to David's house. **2 Samuel 12:11-12** Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give *them* unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun. For thou didst *it* secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.

We need the light to shine on our sin so that we can deal with it according to scripture:

1 John 1:5-10 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him,

and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

- **God is light** – this means that if we fellowship with God then we will have light to see our sins
- **If we say that we have fellowship with him and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth** – sin not dealt with in our lives shuts us out from the light of God and fellowship with Him
- **To consistently walk in the light means to confess sin and be forgiven of them** – If we say we don't have any sin we're self-deceived and the truth is not in us. Confession in the Greek means "to agree with" or "to say the same thing". As we go to church, or read the Bible, or the Spirit turns light on something we didn't know about. We don't need to argue with God because it says that we make him a liar and his word is not in us.